

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on October 27, 2003. It is noted that Japanese Patent applications Nos. 2001-064725 and 2001-109182 were incorporated by reference into the present specification. Specification, page 30, lines 25-26. Translations into the English language of said applications are enclosed herewith. Claim 1 is amended based upon claim 1 of JP 2001-064725. Claim 3 is amended based upon section [0016] on page 8 of JP 2001-109182. Claim 4 is amended based upon section [0019] on page 9 of JP 2001-109182. Claim 12 is amended based upon section [0024] on page 11 of JP 2001-109182. Claim 13 is amended based upon claim 3 of JP 2001-064725. Claim 15 is amended based upon disclosure in claim 1 of JP 2001-064725. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Claims 1-15 remain in this application.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,576,354 B2 (Tsukatani). Tsukatani has a 35 U.S.C. §102(e) date of 29 June 2001. The present application claims priority to Japanese Patent applications Nos. 2001-064725 and 2001-109182, filed respectively on 8 March 2001 and 6 April 2001. Verified translations of the priority applications into the English language accompany this Amendment. Also, claims herein have been amended so that all of the claims now in the application find support in the priority applications. Accordingly, each of claims 1-15 herein is entitled to

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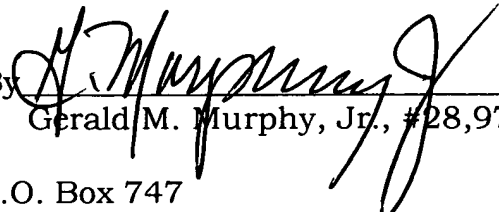
the benefit of a date prior to the effective date of the Tsukatani reference, and consequently, withdrawal of the rejection over Tsukatani is respectfully solicited.

For any questions, please contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at (703) 205-8008.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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